

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00604 261708Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
OMB-01 /070 W
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R 261424Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4589
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0604

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: RABINOWITZ ON ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS

1. AFTER DISCUSSING THE CONTENT OF THE BUDGET WITH
FINANCE MINISTER RABINOWITZ ON JANUARY 25 (SEPTTEL), I
ASKED HOW THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION MIGHT AFFECT IT
AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER A NEW BUDGET MIGHT HAVE TO BE
SUBMITTED. HE REPLIED WITH A SMILE THAT SINCE HE EXPECTED
RABIN TO CONTINUE AS PRIME MINISTER, HE DID NOT ANTICI-
PATE ANY CHANGE IN THE BUDGET. IN THE EVENT OF A PERES
VICTORY, THERE STILL SHOULD BE NO CHANGE, GIVN THE FACT
THAT PERES, AS A MEMBER OF THE PRESENT CABINET, HAD
APPROVED THE DRAFT BUDGET.

2. WHEN ASKED ABOUT EBAN'S CANDIDACY (SEE TEL AVIV 0565),
HE SAID EBAN HAD NO CHANCE OF WINNING THE LEADERSHIP BUT
HE THOUGHT HE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT CABINET.
HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE 600-MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE
(TO BE SELECTED AT NEXT MONTH'S LABOR PARTY CONVENTION)
WAS THE PROPER BODY TO DECIDE THE PARTY LEADERSHIP.
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 00604 261708Z

3. AS FOR YADIN, RABINOWITZ THOUGHT THAT HE HAD LOST
GROUND BY MERGING WITH THE SHINUI GROUP. HE DECLINED
TO PREDICT HOW MANY SEATS YADIN'S PARTY WOULD GET BUT
SCOFFED AT THE NOTION THAT HE MIGHT WIN AS MANY AS 16
POINTING OIT THAT IN 1965 BEN GURION HAD BEEN ABLE TO
GET ONLY NINE SEATS FOR THE PARTY HE CREATED AFTER LEAV-

ING THE LABOR PARTY.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF COALITION PARTNERS, HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD OPPOSED A LINK WITH LIKUD IN THE PAST AND HAD NOT CHANGED HIS MIND. THE WALL-TO-WALL APPROACH WITH LIKUD SIMPLY DID NOT CONFORM TO HIS IDEAS ON PRINCIPLE AND DEMOCRACY IN POLITICS. IN FACT, HE SAW NO REASON WHY LABOR COULD NOT WORK AGAIN WITH THE NRP.

5. RABINOWITZ THOUGHT THAT A COMPROMISE COULD BE FOUND WITH RESPECT TO THE LABOR PARTY'S POSITION ON THE TERRITORIES. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WITH MAPAM INVOLVES THREE WORDS "ALL THE AREAS" -- AND EVEN MRS. MEIR IS SUPPORTING GALILI'S EFFORTS TO FIND COMMON GROUND (TEL AVIV 0523). HE WAS NOT SURE OF MOSHE DAYAN'S POSITION. (NOTE: REPORTEDLY A COMPROMISE WAS REACHED LATER IN THE DAY. SEE SEPTTEL.)
DUNNIGAN

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